

**Maine Revised Statutes**  
**Title 17-A: MAINE CRIMINAL CODE**  
**Chapter 23: OFFENSES AGAINST THE FAMILY**

**§555. ENDANGERING WELFARE OF DEPENDENT PERSON**

1. A person is guilty of endangering the welfare of a dependent person if:

A. The person recklessly endangers the health, safety or mental welfare of a dependent person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class D crime; or [2015, c. 306, §1 (AMD).]

B. The person intentionally or knowingly endangers the health, safety or mental welfare of a dependent person. Violation of this paragraph is a Class C crime. [2015, c. 306, §1 (AMD).]

[2015, c. 306, §1 (AMD).]

**2. Definitions.** As used in this section, unless the context otherwise indicates, the following terms have the following meanings.

A. "Endanger" includes a failure to act only when the defendant has a legal duty to protect the health, safety or mental welfare of the dependent person. For purposes of this paragraph, a legal duty may be inferred if the defendant has assumed responsibility in whole or in part for the care of the dependent person. [2015, c. 306, §2 (NEW).]

B. "Dependent person" means a person, regardless of where that person resides, who is wholly or partially dependent upon one or more other persons for care or support because the person suffers from a significant limitation in mobility, vision, hearing or mental functioning or is unable to perform self-care because of advanced age or physical or mental disease, disorder or defect. [2015, c. 306, §2 (NEW).]

[2015, c. 306, §2 (RPR).]

3.

[2005, c. 431, §1 (RP).]

**SECTION HISTORY**

1975, c. 499, §1 (NEW). 1995, c. 110, §1 (AMD). 2001, c. 111, §1 (AMD).  
2005, c. 431, §1 (RPR). 2015, c. 306, §§1, 2 (AMD).

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